

Muscogee

Nation News

Feb. 15, 2012
Vol. 42, Issue 4

Official semi-monthly publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation

Principal Chief takes message to state democrats

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — Inclusion not exclusion.

That's how Principal Chief George Tiger wants relations between the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the state government of Oklahoma to take place. That was his focus as he addressed a lunchtime meeting of the Democratic Caucus at the State Capitol Feb. 7, 2012.

"Tribes and tribal governments in particular are wanting to work with the State Legislature in terms of inclusion and not exclusion because we feel like there are some issues that they have on their agenda that we need to have some type of input in," Tiger said.

Among the issues tackled by Tiger, were Governor Mary Fallin's decision to abolish the state Indian Affairs Commission in favor of a single liaison position, the lack of funding for the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum and finally, the tribal water rights lawsuit filed by the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes.

The Democratic Caucus gave Tiger no particular reaction on the liaison position, "Without that, especially the smaller ones, are at a loss as to what the agendas are and what legislation may affect the tribes, and so, it is important that we have input about the liaison. As far as a Cabinet-level position, certainly it's always been encouraged by tribes, but we feel we needed to be included in the selection process for that office."



MNN/Gary Fife

Pictured above is Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger on the floor of the Oklahoma State Capitol.

The unfinished American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City is as issue that remains unresolved. If we're not able to finish that cultural center and museum, Tiger said, it reflected negatively on the state of Oklahoma. Both parties in the legislature should be supportive of the

project, "I kind of reminded them, as tribal governments and tribal members, we're Oklahomans, too. So we have an interest, both sides of the aisle," he said.

With Oklahoma license tags bearing the motto "Native America,"

Tiger agreed that the words rang hollow, "I think so. I believe that's something that has always been kind of gnawing, for lack of a better term, with tribal governments.

SEE DEMOCRATS - 2

Tiger issues executive orders; reinstates Duck Creek and Eufaula communities

Sterling Cospers
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — In his Jan. 28, 2012 State of the Nation address, Muscogee (Creek) Nation Principal Chief George Tiger expressed his intention to rescind executive orders 10-19 and 10-20 and restore the charters of the Duck Creek and Eufaula Communities.

Tiger issued executive orders 12-01 on Feb. 3, 2012, and 12-02 on Feb. 6 2012. According to the purpose listed on the orders, "The Principal Chief has the fundamental responsibility to faithfully execute and uphold the laws of the Nation in such manner as prescribed by the Constitution and laws passed by the National Council."

Executive order 12-01, states, "the Controller of the Muscogee

(Creek) Nation is ordered to return all non-gaming financial resources, funds, records, assets, contracts, bank accounts, bank records, computers, hard drives and all other property or documents of any nature owned by the Duck Creek Indian Community by Feb. 6, 2012 at 12 p.m."

The return of property to the Duck Creek Indian Community Smoke Shop will go into effect Feb. 13, 2012.

Reconciliation of the Smoke Shop accounts must be completed by Feb. 10, 2012 at 5 p.m. The Controller must also make all the necessary steps to ensure that final payroll and benefits are distributed to the tribal employees of these businesses by this same time and date.

Executive order 12-02, States that "the Controller of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is ordered to return all

non-gaming financial resources, funds, records, assets, contracts, bank accounts, bank records, computers, hard drives and all other property or documents of any nature owned by the Eufaula Indian Community by Feb. 6, 2012 at 12 p.m."

The return of property to the Eufaula Indian Community Smoke Shop and Skate Zone will go into effect Feb. 13, 2012.

Reconciliation of the Skate Zone and Smoke Shop accounts must be completed by Feb. 10, 2012 at 5 p.m. The Controller must also make all the necessary steps to ensure that final payroll and benefits are distributed to the tribal employees of these businesses by this same time and date.

MCN Citizenship Board to host public hearing March 8, 2012

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Board, under the authority granted by (M(C) NCA) Title 7, § 2-109 A, has created policies and procedures.

The purpose of the policies and procedures is to provide an administrative framework for internal operational procedures, including, but not limited to: rules for the review of citizenship applications, for hearings and appeals, and such other purposes necessary for the efficient performance of the MCN Citizenship Board's operations.

A public hearing will be held March 8, 2012 from 6-7 p.m., at the Mound Building Auditorium to discuss these policies and procedures.

Prior to the public hearing, a copy of the policies and procedures will be available for review at the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office located at the Capitol Complex in Okmulgee, Okla.

For more information, contact the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office at (918) 732-7753.

MCN Web site to be updated, seeks feedback

Media Release
MCN Communications Dept.

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Communications Department is redesigning the website to make it more functional. As part of the redesign, the department is seeking input from citizens regarding usability. Feedback will be used to create a more user-friendly site.

Would you like to submit job applications online? Check the status of your claim with the housing department? Change the name on your roll card from your maiden name or update your address? Have other suggestions or comments about the website? Let us know via email at jslane@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Mvto! For more information, call (918) 732-7720 or contact us by mail at:

C/OMCN Communications
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

MNN 2 - GOVERNMENT

Democrats give Tiger warm reception



MNN 3 - LOCAL NEWS

Family Violence Prevention Program adds position focused on teen dating violence

MNN 5 - PEOPLE

Rowena Tarpalechee



MNN 6 - FEATURE

National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



MNN 8 - ADVERTISEMENT

Summer Youth 2012





Muscogee Nation News STAFF

Manager - Gerald Wofford
Editor - Rebecca Landsberry
Editorial Assistant - Gary Fife
Reporter - Sterling Cosper

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News** unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors or the tribal administration and are subject to editorial discretion. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication. Please contact our office for deadline of submissions to be considered for inclusion. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed from Stigler, Okla., to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

TO CHANGE OR SUBMIT AN ADDRESS, PLEASE CALL (918) 732-7720 or send e-mail to: wmurphy@muscogeenation-nsn.gov



Democrats

Continued from Page 1

The state of Oklahoma wants to be recognized as a Native American state, but, in essence, when it comes down to issues, that's not the scenario."

For decades, the majority of most Native American voters and governments have aligned themselves with the Democratic Party. That is also something that met with his assessment, "I think if we're in favor of any party in the state of Oklahoma, it's with the Democrats. They've always been very supportive of our issues, our causes and I don't see that changing," Tiger said.

A relationship with the Republicans will be a matter of education, he said, "I think the problem that we have is we need to educate the Republican Party about how we're unique people, we're unique as far as the tribal government, but more important, how unique we are in terms of the impact we have as far as the economy of the state of Oklahoma is concerned. Collectively, we are the largest employers in the state of Oklahoma. Those are things that they need to understand and recognize because they are important when it comes to agenda items here on the floor that they consider," he said.

Tiger has accepted an invitation from the Republican side of the legislature and said he'll be delivering the same message to them.

Democrats give Tiger warm reception

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

OKLAHOMA CITY — The caucus was impressed with Principal Chief George Tiger, in the words of Oklahoma State House Minority Caucus Chair, Rep. Jerry McPeak.

McPeak represents Okla., District 13, comprised of Muscogee and Wagoner counties. He said, the Chief's message was "right on target" and reflected well on the tribe.

In responding to the issues cited by Tiger, the McPeak said he shared the same concerns, starting with the abolishment of the state Indian Affairs Commission by Gov. Mary Fallin.

"I'm concerned that the governor is going to appoint the Indian person that represents all of us. Now, who is that appointee going to be responsible to? That's my concern. Is that appointee going to be responsible to the Indians, or is that appointee going to be responsible to the governor? I see some problems with allegiance a little bit. If we're going to have it that way, I wish we'd hurry up and get one appointed. Obviously, that hasn't happened since we did it, so my question is, 'why not?' McPeak asked.

As far as the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, McPeak thinks it's a matter of the state government not holding up it's end of the bargain, "The tribes have done what they said they'd do, and now the government is not doing what they said they'd do. It's just that simple."

He later emphasized that the project would be an economic boost for the state.

The friendly relationship between tribes and the Democratic Party is something McPeak recognized.

He believes the Republicans on other side of the aisle can learn, but



MNN/Archives

Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tax Commissioner and State Rep. Jerry McPeak shared Principal Chief George Tiger's concerns regarding the unique relationship of tribes in the state of Oklahoma.

that it will be a challenge, "His (Tiger's) point about educating the people, that's the most disturbing thing for me. I thought Oklahoma knew about Indi-

Too often, what they say, and what they do, doesn't match."

When asked about the phrase "Native America" on Okla., license

back to the same thing. What we do speaks so loudly, I can't hear what you say. That's the case right there."

Tiger's visit to the State Capitol

"The tribes have done what they said they'd do, and now the government is not doing what they said they'd do."

— Rep. Jerry McPeak

ans, really knew about them. My gosh, it's amazing. You'd think you were in New York or something. I mean, the teepees and whatever it is, it's amazing how little they know, and how little they appreciate what we're trying to do.

plates when compared to the state government's actions, McPeak agreed that was a conflict, "I think the word, 'rings hollow,' is absolutely on target. That's absolutely true. 'Native America,' but then, how do we act? Again, it goes

was a 'step in the right direction,' McPeak concluded and it put a positive image for the nation in the minds of the democrats, something that would serve the tribe well in future legislative debates.

New judge sworn in, first Euchee to be named to judgeship



MNN/Gerald Wofford

Muscogee (Creek) Nation District Court Judge Greg Bigler shakes hands with Principal Chief George Tiger at the Glenpool Indian Community Center after being sworn in on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2012.

Gary Fife
MNN Editorial Assistant

GLENPOOL — Greg Bigler was sworn as a new District Court judge for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation in ceremonies Sat., Feb. 4 in Glenpool.

Principal Chief George Tiger did the honors amongst a full house of citizens at the Glenpool Indian Community Center. Bigler was confirmed by the National Council in the early part of Feb.

Bigler is the first Euchee to be appointed to the District Court and is part of Tiger's effort to develop a more inclusive representation in the Creek

administration and workforce.

That is something, Bigler said, that has not gone unnoticed, "We've been part of this confederacy for a long time. We really appreciate him showing that consideration and keeping that in his mind as he moves forward. We're very aware of that and very happy to see that."

As he assumes his new post, he said the goal of the judicial branch will be to focus more on specific dispute resolution among Creek citizens, a mission that had gotten somewhat lost

on the past court's agenda, "We have perhaps, a narrower focus. We have to focus on court cases and providing those traditional services to the members. If there's other things that need to get done. . . over into the Executive Branch or the Council they need to make those decisions. We may have to resolve disputes between them on occasion, but we really want to keep a focus on what our core mission happens to be."

A giveaway and raffles followed the formalities.

Letter to the Editor:

OKMULGEE — Dear Editor,

I am writing this letter to express my sincere appreciation to Ken Davis from the Veterans Affairs office. Mr. Davis assisted me in filing an application to increase my VA disability benefits a few years ago but that attempt

was unsuccessful. He contacted me out of the blue this summer ready to resubmit my application and I was notified in December that my benefits had been increased! As a full-blood citizen it makes me very proud to see people like Mr. Davis who work so

hard for our tribal citizens! Mr. Davis and Veteran's Affairs Staff, a big thank you for all your hard work and for all you do for our Muscogee veterans!

Sincerely,
Amos Partridge
United States Army, Retired

Administration extends requests for resumes

Media Release
MCN Office of the Principal Chief

OKMULGEE — Principal Chief George Tiger has a new vision for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that includes upholding traditional Muscogee ways and values while at the same time elevating the Nation's government and business operations to unprecedented levels of effectiveness, accountability and service.

To accomplish this ambitious vision, we need to fill multiple leadership positions across the Nation's administrative, health, education, social services, law enforcement, judiciary, and business operations.

Potential candidates should possess the following:

- Experience
- Education
- Proven track record of leadership and accomplishment
- Demonstrate a winning attitude
- Work well in a team environment
- Strong commitment to the Administration's vision and goals for the Muscogee (Creek) people

If you meet the qualifications... Submit your resume or C.V. to LSpaulding@MekkoTiger.com and include the following:

- Experience
- Skills in field of endeavor
- Explanation of why you feel you are a good fit for this tribal administration

Attach examples of your winning attitude, how you have made a difference, your leadership successes and how you have worked well in a team environment to achieve ambitious goals and a shared vision.

All positions are subject to Muscogee (Creek) Nation and Native American hiring preference.

Ce'puyacetos ce!

For more information visit the website at www.muscogeenation-nsn.gov.

Family Violence Prevention Program adds position focused on teen dating violence

Sterling Cospier
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE —The Family Violence Prevention Program recently added a new position focused on youth dating violence. Youth Advocate Mitzi Pope was hired to fill this position after a need to address this issue arose.

“Before Mitzi came on, I did a panel discussion in the dorms at Eufaula headed by a couple of survivors who were in abusive relationships as teenagers. The response from that showed me we needed someone to do this full time,” said Family Violence Coordinator Shawn Partridge.

Pope has only been in the Youth Advocate position since July, but she has already built a demand for her services in the surrounding communities. “Just in the last week, I saw 60 kids at Wilson Schools in one day, so almost their entire high school. I also saw like three different groups of high school students with about 25 in each group.”

Partridge reinforced the importance of Pope’s work. “Her being involved this way might be the first opportunity these youth have to hear about what a healthy relationship is. We find that a lot of times, it is an issue that gets taken for granted.”

A big part of the program’s prevention work involves giving informative presentations to area schools

on teen dating violence. “I’ve gone to Holdenville, Okemah, Lone Star, and Wilson schools, and the Eufaula Dorm,” said Pope.

Pope’s curriculum, called ‘Safe Dates’, is an evidence based prevention program designed to inform youth about relationships. “There are nine sessions, and sometimes I just have time to do one or two. The first session covers what healthy relationships are and what they look like. After that we immediately move into harmful behaviors, and how they can turn into dating abuse,” she said.

Pope continued to describe her curriculum. “We also cover how to help somebody in an abusive relationship. So, if they have a friend or family member that is in an abusive situation, we tell them how to handle that. We also tell them where they could go for help if they find themselves in an abusive relationship.”

The program is very comprehensive, and deals with a broad range of factors that affect the way teens view relationships. “We look at gender stereotypes, and how the media portrays men and women and their role in our society. We talk about where they get their idea of what a relationship looks like. Whether these ideas come from music, magazines, books, or movies. We talk about all those things so they

can identify a healthy relationship from an unhealthy one within these media,” Pope said.

Pope also uses these examples in pop culture to present information on teen dating violence in a way that interests the youth. “A lot of them look at the couple from the ‘Twilight’ series for instance. We try to identify the harmful things, then maybe the more caring things that might be in that relationship.”

This connection through pop culture is also used in addressing one issue specifically. “Mitzi does a presentation on sexting; we’re finding that this is such a big issue right now. MTV has done a really good documentary on this issue. We just got the agreement back, so we should be able to order and use it in our presentations soon,” said Partridge.

Sexting is commonly defined as sending sexually themed content such as messages or photographs, often by cellular phone. Sexting involving minors is a felony in Okla., and punishable by a fine in an amount up to \$10,000, imprisonment up to 10 years, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Pope continued by emphasizing just how important it is to inform teens about this issue. “Sexting and digital dating violence are very hot topics for teens because their world is

mostly all digital. Almost all the youth have cell phones and Facebook accounts. When I ask them, ‘Have you heard of sexting?’ they say they have heard of it, but really don’t know what it is, and what the law is.”

Pope and Partridge also use other outlets to raise awareness. “We went to Okemah and Holdenville football games, in both instances they happened to be playing Morris. We had them read a little script before the game and at halftime about our program, dating violence, and the rate of dating violence in Okla. over the loudspeaker. It was nice because everyone in town comes to those games,” said Pope.

The ladies used their multifaceted approach toward prevention within the games as well. “We also set up tables where we had giveaways, but they had to fill out a quiz about dating violence first. I was shocked because the children didn’t know a lot about dating violence, but they really wanted to know more. They were surprised how many of their peers were involved in these things,” said Pope.

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, on Valentine’s Day, Pope and Partridge plan to split up, and return to Holdenville and Okemah. Over the students’ lunch periods they will encourage them to

pledge against dating violence. Each of them will set up tables and meet with students over the schools’ lunch hours.

“We are going to have the pledge read over the morning announcements. If the youth want to come and take the pledge, they will sign a paper saying that they took it, and then they will get a bracelet,” said Pope.

The Family Violence Program is reapplying for their federal grant this year. “When we rewrite this new grant in a month or so, it is possible we will add on another advocate position. I would like to have just one person that can focus on nothing but prevention-type work,” said Partridge.

Pope also stated her plans for the future within the program. “I’m trying to get to where I go to a school, and maybe see the entire eighth grade in a week or a day. The nation is huge, so there are a lot of youth out there that need to hear this stuff. I hope that more people call and want me to come out, because it’s free. The children need to hear the information.”

Their program is allowed to cover the prevention of violence against women in rural areas within Muscogee (Creek) Nation territory.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



TAKE THE PLEDGE!

I PLEDGE:
To ALWAYS treat my dating partner with RESPECT, NEVER HURT my partner physically, verbally, or emotionally, NOT be controlling or Manipulative, And to ACCEPT Responsibility for my actions.

TAKE A MOMENT AND PLEDGE

February 2012

- Post the Pledge to your **FACEBOOK** or **TWITTER** page
- Email the Pledge to your co-workers
- Text the pledge to your friends

BREAK THE SILENCE. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

For more information or to request a presentation about Dating Violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate, with Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

CREEK NATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

OKMULGEE — February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

The MCN Family Violence Prevention program is asking Muscogee teens to take the pledge to always treat their dating partners with respect.

Teens should post the pledge to their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to coworkers and text the pledge to friends.

“Break The Silence. Be Part of the Solution.”

For more information, or to request a presentation about dating violence, please contact Mitzi Pope, Youth Advocate with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1-800-521-5432.

TCIC to host youth Valentine's Day parties in Feb.

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community will host two Valentine's Day youth parties to be held at the community center located at 8611 S. Union Ave., in Tulsa.

For youth ages 7 -12, a party will be Friday, Feb. 17 from 6-9 p.m. For youth ages 2 -18, the event will be Saturday, Feb. 18 from 7-10 p.m. Both events will feature video and board games, music, food and entertainment. For more information, call (918) 298-2464. Transportation for the event is available.

MFSI to host Harvest Meal Feb. 17

SAPULPA — Mvskoke Food Sovereignty Initiative will host a Harvest Meal in the Sapulpa Feb. 17, 2012 at the Sapulpa Indian Community Center located at 1020 North Brown Street in Sapulpa, beginning at 4 p.m.

MFSI will provide the meal, and community members are welcome to bring their favorite dish and a family member. The event will feature free garden seeds, door prizes and fun for all ages.

MFSI Education and Policy Coordinator Rita Williams will have a presentation on “Growing Healthy Communities” at this free event.

The goal of MFSI is to spark an interest in the youth to garden and sell their produce at a local farmers market and to encourage elders to container garden while sharing their stories with the youth.

Other events hosted by MFSI this month include:

- Feb. 17 - 4 p.m. - Youth and Elder Harvest Meal - Sapulpa Indian Community Center

- Feb. 19 - 1 p.m. - Pumpkin Seed Saving and Cooking Class - Wilson Indian Community Center

- Feb. 26 - 1 p.m. - Cvtvhakv burning - Wilson Indian Community Center

Please RSVP with the MFSI Office (918) 756-5915 to Melody Reader (918) 752-6113, Stephanie Berryhill (918) 759-0817, or June Marshall (918) 752-6139.

Hickory Ground #1 hosts Indian taco sale Feb. 17

OKMULGEE — An Indian taco sale will be held Friday, Feb. 17 at the Human Development Building on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Capitol Complex from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. The price of \$6 includes taco, dessert and drink.

Proceeds will go towards repairing the roof for Hickory Ground #1 Baptist Church. Delivery is available.

For more information, contact Roman Harjo at (918) 758-0323.

Bake sale and Native craft sale set for Feb. 25

SAPULPA — A bake sale and Native craft sale will be held Saturday, Feb. 25 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Sapulpa Library located at 27 W. Dewey.

The event will feature baked goods as well as bows, beadwork, and ribbon shirts/skirts. Barbecue sandwich, chips and a drink will be available for \$5.

For more information, call (918) 852-6780.

Summer Youth application deadline set for March 16

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Summer Youth Employment Program is accepting applications for the upcoming year.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 16, 2012 at the Human Development Employment and Training Office.

For more information, please contact 918-732-7775 or 7776. You may also

call 1-800-482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776.

Applicants must be a member of a federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.

Parent Committee Grocery Bingo set for March 17

OKMULGEE — The OSU Parent Committee 2011-2012, is hosting a fundraiser bingo at Okmulgee Indian Community Center Sat. March 17.

Bingo starts at 1 p.m., with the food sale beginning at 11 a.m.

Most of the food items were donated by local businesses. Some of the items available will be homemade chili, desserts, chili-cheese hotdogs, Frito pies and popcorn.

We will also announce the winners of the Lucky Charm Contest.

For more information, contact the Parent Committee at (918) 304-0476 or (918) 752-1444 or by email at: lmbear@okstate.edu

Haikey Chapel hosts wild onion dinner March 17

TULSA — Haikey Chapel will host a wild onion dinner Saturday, March 17, 2012, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners are \$8 and a child's plate (10 and under) is \$5. The church is located at 8815 E. 101st St., in Tulsa.

For more information, contact Sandra Chisholm via email at: sancrandall@yahoo.com

Little Cussetah UMC to host wild onion dinner March 24

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist will host their annual wild onion dinner Saturday, March 24 beginning at 11 a.m. Dinners will be \$7 for adults and \$5 for children and include all-you-can-eat items such as salt meat, sofkey, drink and dessert.

For more information, check them out on Facebook at Little Cussetah UMC or contact Paul Tecumseh at (918) 270-0213 or Nelson Harjo at (918) 752-7731.

Concharty hosts wild onion dinner March 31

OKMULGEE — Concharty UMC will host a wild onion dinner will be Saturday, March 31, 2012, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Adult dinners are \$8 and a child's plate (12 and under) is \$6. The church is located at 19040 Garfield Road in Okmulgee.

For more information, call (918) 366-8450, email: info@kvnccate.com or visit: www.kvnccate.com

Sexual Assault Awareness Walk set for April 11

OKMULGEE — “Walk a Mile In Her Shoes” is the theme for the 2012 Sexual Assault Awareness Walk, set for April 11, 2012.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. at the MCN Mound building. It is sponsored by the MCN Family Violence Prevention Program.

For more information, contact Tina Qualls at (918)-813-6900 or email tqqualls@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Language fair deadline set for March 12

Media Release
Sam Noble Museum

NORMAN—Students of Native American languages from preschool to high school age are encouraged to enter the 10th annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, April 2 and 3, at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman. Participants in grades pre-K through 12 will demonstrate their language skills as groups or individuals in the spoken language and language in song categories.

Other competition categories include poster art and book categories, open to grades three through 12; language with PowerPoint presentation and film/video categories, both open to sixth-through 12th-graders; a language advocacy essay category, open to grades nine through 12; and a language masters performance category for grades nine through 12, designed to showcase the language skills of students who have grown up speaking a Native American language. A new category for 2012 is poetry writing and performance; it is open to all ages. Registration deadline is March 12.

The competition draws more

than 600 participants from across Oklahoma as well as neighboring states competing in as many as 27 Native American languages. Pre-K through fifth-grade competitions will take place on Monday, April 2; sixth-through 12th grade competitions are set for Tuesday, April 3. The top three award-winners in each age group and category will receive a trophy that can be displayed at their school or tribal center. Every student who participates will receive a medallion and Language Fair T-shirt. For the 10th anniversary, every student also will receive a 2012 calendar with poster art for the last 10 years in addition to other language prizes. Fair participants will be honored at the state capitol on Monday, April 9, and all students and programs are invited to attend.

A panel of elders and teachers from several different tribes will judge the spoken language and language in song competitions. Native artists will judge the posters based on creativity and use of this year's theme, “Language in My Heart.” In addition, Native authors will judge the book and poetry competitions.

To register and for additional information, visit <http://nal.snomnh.ou.edu/onaylf>. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 12. PowerPoint presentations, films, books, poetry, and poster entries must be received by March 16. No late entries will be accepted.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

To have forms sent by mail, or for additional information, participants may contact the museum's Native American Languages department at (405) 325-7588 or by email at ONAYLF@snomnh.ou.edu. The 2011 Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair is made possible, in part, by the Boeing Company and the Cyril Foundation.

The Sam Noble Museum is located on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus at Timberdell Road and Chautauqua Avenue. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors 65 and up, and \$3 for youth ages 6 to 17.

For more information about the museum, call (405) 325-4712, or visit the museum's website at www.snomnh.ou.edu.

MCN Citizenship Office updating death records

Media Release
MCN Citizenship Office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Citizenship Office is asking family members of deceased citizens to contact our office in order to update the deceased citizens' information. The office is also requesting the original state certified fill image

death certificate of the citizen.

The original document will be returned. This is in response to the Citizenship Office's efforts to update the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's files.

For more information, please contact the office at (918) 732-7941.

MORTGAGE DOWN PAYMENT & CLOSING COST PROGRAM

FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER EDUCATION CLASS

Because many Native American families find it difficult or overwhelming to purchase their first home The Mortgage Down Payment and Closing Cost Program is offering a first time homebuyer education class which will help prepare our Native American families for the road to homeownership.

The Homebuyer Class will feature guest speakers knowledgeable in the various aspects of buying a home. From credit and loans to finding the right house and finalizing the deal.

UNDERSTANDING CREDIT AND CREDIT SCORES.....	Mr. David Showalter Data Facts
LOANS.....	Mr. Jon Kennedy, Loan Officer Bank 2
REAL ESTATE.....	Ms. Shelly Rivera, Realtor, Keller-Williams,
ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS	Mr. James Williams Environmental Specialist II MCN Environmental Dept.
INSURANCE	Phyllis Little Martin AMERIND Risk Services
CLOSINGS	Ms. Debbie Haynes, Closer OLT Real Estate Closing Co.

**March 24th, 2012
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

FOR PRE-ENROLLMENT CONTACT
LADONNA NORTHCROSS
918-549-2554, M-F 8AM-5PM

**MCN HOUSING DIVISION
DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

WE HAVE YOU COVERED

Arvest Bank provides the financial solutions you need.

Personal & Business Checking Accounts*

All Arvest checking accounts come with the FREE services you need to do your day-to-day banking — Arvest Online Banking, Mobile Banking**, Arvest CheckCard, and 24-Hour Account Information Line.

Mortgage Loans:

Rural Development

FHA, VA or Bond

Section 184 Indian Home Loan

- Lower Monthly Payments
- No Monthly Mortgage Insurance
- Lower Down Payment
- Low Fixed Rate

Mention this ad for a \$75 Closing Cost Discount.***

*\$100.00 minimum required to open a checking account.
**Your wireless carrier may assess a fee for data services.
***Please consult your wireless plan or provider for details.
***Some restrictions may apply. See associate for details.


(918) 631-1000

arvest.com

ARVEST®

Member FDIC





MVSKOKE NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE

(CREEK AND SEMINOLE LANGUAGE)

**CONTACT: STEVE RANDALL
AT (918) 704-3738 OR VISIT:
WWW.MVSKOKEBIBLE.COM**

**\$20 EACH
ORDERS OF 10 OR MORE \$15 EACH**

OBITUARIES

NEVILLE DE ROIN BARNES

WETUMKA — Neville De Roin Barnes a resident of Wetumka passed away Dec. 29, 2011 at the age of 42.

He was born March 2, 1969 to Amanda Yahola and Sidney Barnes in Wetumka, Okla.

He was raised in Dallas, Texas, moved to Wetumka his senior year, graduated then moved back to Dallas and graduated from a technical school.

He loved watching the Dallas Cowboys and OU football. He also enjoyed cooking out and spending time with friends and family.

He was preceded in death by grandmothers, Lucille Harjo, Lela Barnes; Grandfathers, Norman Harjo, Denny Yahola, Thomas Barnes; three Aunts, three uncles; one nephew Josh Sanchez; two nieces Jenny and Carol Yahola.

Neville is survived by parents Amanda and Harry Martinez of Wetumka; one sister Anita Sanchez and husband Henry Sanchez of Wetumka, one brother Lewis Yahola and wife Jennifer Yahola of Wetumka; adopted sister Zoe Anderson of Wetumka, two nieces Hilary Sanchez of Ada and Lainee Yahola of Wetumka; five nephews Travis and Terrence Yahola of Wetumka, Chris Flanagan of Wetumka, Henry Sanchez III of Konawa, Nicholas Sanchez of Dallas Texas; great nephew Chayden Spradlin; five aunts Josephine Anderson and Stella Bear and Mickie Deer of Wetumka, Ann Gibson and husband Melvin of Chickasha, Paula Herrod and husband Randy of Wetumka, Step Grandmother Susie Martinez of Wetumka.

Funeral services were held Jan. 2, 2012 at Salt Creek Indian Baptist Church in Wetumka with Rev. Mark Smith and Rev. David Dunson officiating.

Pallbearers were Asi Yahola, Duane Mooney, Steve Anderson, Maurice Yahola, Kenny Bird Johnson, Charlie Stewart.

Honorary Pallbearers were Rafe Blackshire and Jeff Yahola.

Burial followed the service at Salt Creek Indian Cemetery in Wetumka under the direction of Williamson-Spradlin Funeral Home in Wetumka.

LEAH MAE BILLEY

TULSA — Leah “Emochee” Mae Billey was born Feb. 17, 1929 in Okfuskee County, and departed from this life Sunday, Jan. 8, 2012 in Tulsa, Okla., at the age of 82.

Leah, the daughter of Hully and Lela (Butcher) Fixico, was a longtime resident of Paden. She married

John Billey June 3, 1947, in Okemah, Okla. Leah was a homemaker and member of the Praries Springs Indina Baptist Church in Okemah.

Her husband, parents, two sons, Johnny Lee Billey and Glen Lee Billey; one sister, Ida Micco and aunt Ollie Conner, preceeded Leah in death.

Survivors include: daughter and son-in-law Lena and Bruce Deckard or Sparta, Mo., and grandchildren Amanda Toliver of Ozark, Mo., Leah Lowery of Fayetteville, N.C., April Reynolds of Tulsa, Mia Rigsby of Oklahoma City, Quinton Billey of Tulsa, Richard Miller of Shawnee, Bobby Billey of Shawnee, Christopher Thomas of Perkins and Shawn Thomas of Perkins, 11 great grandchildren and many other relatives.

TOMMY LOWE



RIO VISTA, Calif. — Tommy Lowe Formerly of Tiger Mountain, Okla., moved to Calif., in 1971 and made his home in Rio Vista.

Tommy peacefully passed away at the age of 67, after a three year bout with cancer, culminating in a short period of debilitation, on Feb. 6, 2012.

He is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Jackie; three sons: Tommy Jr., of Post Falls, Ind., Ray and Sam of Vacaville, Calif.; five grandchildren: Alec, Elizabeth, Joshua, Kristen and Hailey; two sisters: Dorcas Tiger of Tiger Mountain, Okla., Abbie Davis of Dewar, Okla., two brothers: Hickman McIntosh of Dallas, Texas, Jerry Lowe of Eufaula, Okla.; Mother In Law, Lori Adams of Gilmer, Texas., two brothers-in-law; three sisters-in-law, three daughters-in-law and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews and many close friends.

He was rich in love and will be sorely missed.

Memorial services will be held at Silver Springs Baptist Church on Saturday, Feb. 25.

ROWENA TARPALECHEE

OKMULGEE — Rowena Tarpalechee, a resident of Okmulgee, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2012 at the age of 62. She was born Dec. 8, 1949 to Shawney, Sr., and Annie (Fulsom) Hardridge in Claremore, Okla.

On Nov. 28, 1971, she married Edward M. Tarpalechee in Morris,



Okla. She was a member of the Cross-town Pentecostal Church in Okmulgee and a member of the UMW at the Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Shawney, Sr. and Annie Hardridge; brother, Lonnie Hardridge and niece, Cindy Watkins.

Survivors include her husband, Edward M. Tarpalechee of the home; five children, Brian Tarpalechee of Morris, Eddy Tarpalechee, Shera Tarpalechee, Darin Tarpalechee and Jay Tarpalechee, all of Okmulgee; four sisters, Nellie Whitten of Anderson, S.C., Janice O'Shields and husband, Jerry of Kellyville, Susanna Grayson of Okmulgee and Linda Watkins and husband, Dale of Anderson, S.C.; one brother, Shawney Hardridge of Freemont, Calif.; six grandchildren, Layna, Trevor, Anthony, Trenton, Brian, Jr., and Tori Tarpalechee and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles and other relatives.

Visitation was held Wednesday from 3-8 p.m. at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Wake Services were held Wednesday from 6-8 p.m. at the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Funeral Services were held at 1 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012 at the Big Cussetah Methodist Church in Morris with Rev. Newman Frank officiating. Burial will follow the service at the Tarpalechee Family Cemetery in Okmulgee under the direction of the Shurden-Jackson Funeral Home in Okmulgee.

Pallbearers will Kirby Jennings, Chance Beasley, Nolan Grayson, Terry O'Shields, Cory Willis and Richard Morgan.

ELSIE ADALINE VAUGHN

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. — Our beloved mother, Muscogee (Creek) citizen, Elsie Adaline (Jones) Vaughn,

born Jan. 6, 1920 to parents Alvin Hodge Orcutt and Lillian Beatrice Olsen, passed away Jan. 14, 2012.

We gratefully celebrated her 92nd Birthday this year. She was laid to rest next to our father, Delmer Eugene Jones, at Greenlawn Mortuary Southwest, Bakersfield, Calif.

Mother and dad had eight children: Mary H., Alvin E., Jim M., Jack L., Opal D., Gorden L., Geanie M. (Flores), and Ken L. Jones.

She had numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. She will be greatly missed.

District Court filings for December 2011

The District Court filings from Dec. 1, 2011 through Dec. 31, 2011 are as follows:

Traffic:	
MCN v. Linda West	Starting, Turning, Stopping without Regard to Safety
	Expired Tag
	DUS
	Disorderly Conduct
	Invalid Driver's License
	Expired Tag
	Expired Tag
	Disorderly Conduct
	Disorderly Conduct

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE MUSCOGEE CREEK NATION
OKMULGEE DISTRICT

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
HOUSING DIVISION (successor in
interest to THE HOUSING AUTHORITY
OF THE CREEK NATION OF
OKLAHOMA),

Plaintiff,

v.

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and
TOBY LYNN SHEETS,

Defendant.

Case No. CV-2011-203

SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NOTICE

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA TO:

ANGELA MARIE SEARCY and
TOBY LYNN SHEETS.

GREETINGS:

Take notice that you and each of you have been sued in the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee Division, in the above entitled and numbered cause by the Plaintiff, and that you must answer the Complaint filed by Plaintiff in the office of the undersigned Court Clerk on or before the 2nd day of March, 2012, or judgment against you and a decree in Plaintiff's favor will be rendered accordingly. 2012

You are ordered to appear at the Courtroom of the District Court of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Okmulgee, OK, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. for a forcible entry and detainer hearing and to remain subject to the call of the court until discharged.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2011.

Court Clerk
By: Shawna Miller, Deputy

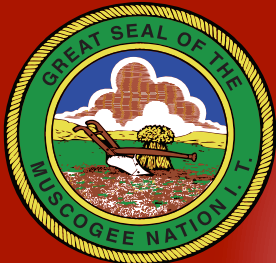
INGLISH & GAITHER, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Henryetta, OK

MUSCOGEE (CREEK) NATION
MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER
&
VETERAN AFFAIRS SERVICES OFFICE

IN COLLABORATION WITH
SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

PRESENTS

NATIVE WORDS, NATIVE WARRIORS
NOVEMBER 11, 2011 – FEBRUARY 29, 2012



“During World War I and World War II, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States armed forces and used words from their traditional languages as weapons...America’s enemies never deciphered the coded messages they sent.”



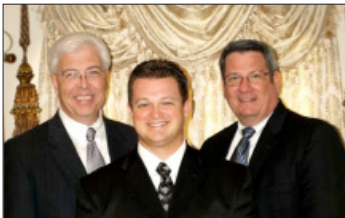
Smithsonian Institution

EXHIBITION AT MUSCOGEE VETERANS BUILDING
For more information contact
Muscogee Tourism & Recreation: 918-732-7992

Developed by the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service with generous support from Elizabeth Hunter Solomon, the Smithsonian Women’s Committee, and the AMB Foundation.



INTEGRITY FUNERAL
SERVICE



“Caring when it counts”

- Proud to have Native American employees and ownership.
- Special packaging available that utilizes the Creek and BIA Benefits.
- Traditions matter and we are here to help honor them with respect and dignity.
- \$4400.00 Traditional Creek Package that includes a 20 steel casket, concrete graveliner, and services.

410 East Trudgeon Street
Henryetta, Oklahoma 74437
(918) 652-6600

www.integrityfuneralservice.com

Emvponayv

Gary Fife
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Yikes!

A new study published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition says American Indians who frequently ate “spam,” had double the risk of developing diabetes compared to those who ate little to none. The processed, canned meat was a part of the commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s food assistance program. Researchers surveyed Indians with an “average age of 35 from: Ariz., Okla., and North and South Dakota, fifty percent of American Indians develop diabetes by age 55,” it said.

Still more bad news: all participants were free of diabetes and cardiovascular disease at the start of the study. Five years later, the researchers conducted a follow-up survey; 243 people had developed diabetes. “A lot of communities in this study are in very rural areas with limited access to grocery stores... and they want to eat foods that have a long shelf life,” said the lead author and a researcher at the University of Washington School of Medicine, who grew up on a reservation near the Arctic Circle (A reservation near the Arctic Circle? I’ve been in that area in Alaska and there ‘ain’t no such animal! Villages? Yes. Reservations? Nope! Maybe Canada?). Anyway, of those 500 who ate the most spam, 85 developed the disease.

Boy, I remember as a kid when a fried spam sandwich—or ‘sammich’ as we called it, was a real treat. Toss a chunk of commodity cheese on that sucker and you had a real feast and artery clogger. Even later in life, spam was frequently on my menu (mostly because it fit my budget!). All we worried about then was getting a ‘commod bod’ from all the starch and grease.

But wait. There’s hope! A new project on the northern plains reports that Transcendental Meditation (TM) can help combat diabetes. Yup, that’s the same TM that folks like the Beatles and Mia Farrow used. Local Ho-Chunk people report lowering their blood glucose and blood pressure levels by practicing the discipline. TM’s most well-known leader was the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi. He was an ‘Indian’ too, but I don’t think his tribe was federally recognized.

The entertainment industry just never learns.

Actor Lou Diamond Phillips, who has claimed ‘Cherokee ancestry,’ has been cast as the Indian best friend in an upcoming TV series. Phillips will play Henry Standing Bear, the best friend of the TV sheriff. Author Craig Johnson who wrote the original material said the character is based on Marcus Red Thunder, a member of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Wasn’t Standing Bear a Ponca? Johnson’s “Longmire” mystery novels are set on a reservation in Wyo. The pilot was mainly shot in N.M., and the series, due to air on A&E, will be shot there as well.

Maybe the idiot who came up with Lou Diamond Phillips should have gotten a little birdshot in the backside, too. It might help him or her think a little clearer. With all the Native American talent now available, why this fake Indian? Wes Studi, or Adam Beach or maybe the werewolf guys from “Twilight”? There’s no excuse for this in this day and age.

MCN sees first year of participation in national Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

Sterling Cospoer
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. This is the first year for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s participation in this event.

The focus of this event is to raise awareness of, and encourage teens to pledge against dating violence.

The pledge states, “I will: always treat my girlfriend/boyfriend with respect, never harm them physically, verbally, or emotionally, not be controlling or manipulative in my relationship, and always accept responsibility for my actions.”

Teens are encouraged to post the pledge on their Facebook or Twitter page, email the pledge to their coworkers, and text the pledge to their friends.

“We are doing more this time around because of the addition of Mitzi Pope our new Youth Advocate,” said Family Violence Prevention Project Coordinator Shawn Partridge.

“Pope’s position came about because of the newest grant to fund our Family Violence Program. We recognized the need because statistics on family violence for tribal people are shockingly high. We really like to start prevention early,” said Partridge.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, American Indians are 2.5 percent more likely to experience sexual assault compared to all other races, and one in three American Indian women report that they have been raped in their lifetime.

Partridge pointed out that there are all kinds of examples of this type of violence in the media. One case they often cite in their presentations is the murder of Yeadley Love, the lacrosse player out east. Her boyfriend, who was also a lacrosse player, stands accused of murdering Love.

Partridge also cited an instance closer to home, the murder of tribal member



MNN/Sterling Cospoer

Pictured above are Tania Bardin with the Family Violence Prevention Program with Creek/Seminole filmmaker Sterlin Harjo, on a set for the Public Service Announcement shoot for Teen Violence Awareness Month. Cheyenne Burgess, the youth pictured above, is stating the teen violence pledge for the PSA

Lisa Tiger’s daughter, 18-year-old Shelleigh Poor Bear, by her boyfriend Enrique Pacheco.

“The reports had said that she was at a friend’s house and her boyfriend, who she had a child with, showed up and was trying to get her to leave with him. She didn’t want to, so he pulled her by the hair, down the driveway. People came out and threatened to call the cops, so he got into the car and took off. He was already gone when the authorities arrived.

Pacheco called Poor Bear the next day saying he wanted to meet so they could make up. They met up at a hotel, and he ended up stabbing her repeatedly in the abdomen until she died,” Partridge said.

Through their program, both Partridge and Pope have worked extensively and directly with teens in a variety of ways on the issue of teen dating violence.

“It is really shocking the experiences the youth are having at such a young age. Youth dating violence is one of those issues that is often overlooked. Given all the statistics and working with the kids directly, you know that these are issues that need to be addressed,” said Partridge.

Beyond their own work, Partridge wishes to point out that dating violence education begins with the parents. “I want you to highlight the importance of parents talking to their children about this type of issue. You know, about what a healthy relationship is, and really reinforce that they deserve to be in relationships that are healthy and make them feel good about themselves. Parents should tell the children to avoid relationships where they feel scared, and avoid somebody that puts them down,” she said.

Partridge also acknowledged the difficulties parents face when addressing

these topics with teens, but still encouraged their continued vigilance. “I think we miss a lot of opportunities to talk to them about relationships. I know these topics can be kind of uncomfortable.”

A poster contest to raise awareness of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month was held for the event, and the winners will be announced soon. “It’s just kind of a cool project to get youth involved and see their thoughts on dating violence,” said Partridge.

For more information on teen violence awareness or to request a presentation, contact Youth Advocate, Mitzi Pope with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 1 (800) 521-5432.

More information is also available online at www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention under the youth violence tab, or at www.loveisrespect.org

Summer Youth Employment Program helps create bright future for youth on bright summer days

Sterling Cospoer
MNN Reporter

OKMULGEE — Enrollment has begun for the 2012 Summer Youth Employment Program. The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Employment and Training Program began accepting applications Dec. 19, 2011 and will continue to do so through March 2, 2012.

“It’s a great opportunity to get job skills and exposure to what the working world is like,” said Youth Development Coordinator Cindy Russell. “The youth will gain some experience they can put on their resume by the time they graduate,” stated Job Developer Nancy Mason.

According to Russell, the youth aren’t the only ones that benefit from the program. “It also helps businesses in the community because the money is funneled through the nation, so the employers basically get a free employee for the summer.”

The program is also expected to be beneficial for the Nation and parents as well. “It gives us really good contacts with the people out in the public. The parents also think it’s great. When the kids get too old to participate, the parents are really disappointed,” Russell stated.

Russell also commented on the change and growth the Summer Youth Program has seen over the years. “It has to have been almost 40 years, maybe a little less. When I first started working for the program I think we had about 250 kids, my next summer we had 500, and the one after that we had about 700. Last year we took 1,334 applications, but we could only put 800 to work.”

Unlike years past, the youth are allowed to choose their employers. This change was made for a variety of reasons. “When I first started we found them a job, but now we let them find their own. The fact is they are going to have to do that when they get older anyway,” said Russell.

Russell also pointed out the other benefits of this more reality-based structure. “Sometimes the kids say,

‘I want to work at a daycare,’ because they think they can just play all day and sleep. When you work at a daycare though, you’re pretty much going all day. A lot of them have misconceptions about the jobs. So it really gives them a chance to see if they really want to go into these fields.”

There is no shortage of variety for youth who wish to gain experience in their prospective career fields. “There have been so many jobs available: landscaping, hospitals, office work at the tribe, sports fields, water parks, the aquarium, we had a glass blowing company last year, bakeries, kitchens, hair salons, horse ranches, veterinarians, and zoos. No jobs in convenience stores or casinos though. We don’t want them working with alcohol or tobacco,”

Russell stated.

The first day of actual work is Monday, June 4, 2012, and the program will run through Friday, July 27, 2012.

Youth must be between the ages of 16 and 21, and members of any federally recognized tribe. They must also live within MCN boundaries. Pending tribal applicants are also accepted with verification from the MCN Citizenship Office, stating that they have a pending application.

All positions are full-time. Payment for youth in the program is \$7.25 per hour for high school students and \$8.55 per hour for full-time college students.

High school students who complete the program can also expect to have full payment for their ACT pro-

vided tests the following school year.

Participants can use tribal or public transportation, but it is recommended they choose an employer close to their home or where they can consistently get a ride to and from work.

Employers can expect payment and workers’ compensation for the youth to be covered by the tribe.

Interested youth should contact the Youth Employment Program at (918) 732-7775 for applications, and are encouraged to call on their own. The applications will be mailed to them, and must be returned to the Employment and Training division of Human Development office by Friday, March 2, 2012

Change a life. Become a Foster/Adoptive Parent

Children. Keepers of our tradition.

Preserve our heritage, become a foster/adoption parent today. In the State of Oklahoma, there are Muscogee Creek Children in state and tribal custody looking for a place to call “cuko” (home). Become a Foster/Adoptive tribal home.

For more information contact: Tammi Reed-Barnett
at (918) 732-7883 OR email: tammirb@muscogeenation-nsn.gov

Okmulgee Indian Community adds Gift Shop Web site



MNN/Gerald Wofford

The Okmulgee Indian Community Gift Shop, located at 2850 S. Wood Dr., in Okmulgee, recently released a new Web site where users can browse the shop's Native craft items for sale. Pictured above are OIC Chairman Ester Gee and Ginny Hall.

Media Release
Okmulgee Indian Community

OKMULGEE — The Okmulgee Indian Community Gift Shop located next door to the community's smoke shop has reopened for business.

The OIC Gift Shop has also added a new website: <http://www.oicgiftshop.com> or a link can be found on the Muscogee (Creek) Nation website in the Community Ser-

vices Division, under the Communities page.

The OIC Gift Shop's website features all the Native made arts and crafts currently available for sale in the store.

The Native craftsmen and women have been asked to sign a media release so that we are able to post their products on our website. The Gift

Shop is actively taking new items on a consignment basis.

The OIC Smoke Shop and Gift Shop are economic enterprises of the Okmulgee Indian Community.

The OIC Smoke and Gift Shop is located at 2850 S. Wood Drive in Okmulgee. Follow OIC on Facebook at www.facebook.com/OICGiftShop

Holdenville Indian Community to elect Board of Trustees Chairperson

Media Release
Holdenville Indian Community

HOLDENVILLE — Holdenville Creek Indian Community will be taking nominations for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Nominations will be accepted beginning Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 at 8

a.m. until March 2, 2012 at noon.

The election for Chairperson of the Board of Trustees will be held Saturday, March 10, 2012 from 7 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center. Voters must be general members of the community

in order to vote. Nominations may be submitted in a sealed envelope to the community secretary at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville, Okla.

For more information, contact the Holdenville Creek Indian Community Center at (405) 379-3485.

TU to host Native American Pre-Law Day March 3, 2012

Media Release
University of Tulsa College of Law

TULSA — The University of Tulsa College of Law will sponsor a Native American Pre-Law Day on Saturday, March 3, 2012 from 8:15 a.m.-5:30 p.m., to encourage Native American senior high school and early college students to consider a career in law.

Sessions will focus on how to prepare for law school, what law school is like (from student perspective), how to apply to law school, etc. Guests will also have an opportunity to observe a mock law class taught by Professor Bill Rice, Co-Director of Tulsa's Native American Law Center.

American Indian college and senior high school students are invited to attend. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist with travel costs for students outside easy driving distance of Tulsa.

Participants will have the opportunity to see whether law school is the right fit for them. They will learn how to prepare now for a future career in Law. Prominent Native American attorneys will discuss their backgrounds and careers, law school representatives will provide information about the law school admissions process and how to finance a legal education,

current Indian law students will tell what law school is really like, and Indian law professors will provide guidance on how to prepare for law school.

This workshop, which is funded by the Law School Admissions Council and co-hosted by Oklahoma City University School of Law, the University of Oklahoma College of Law, and the University of Tulsa College of Law, is designed to heighten awareness about the numerous benefits associated with DiscoverLaw.org registration.

Space is limited, and registration is on a first come/first serve basis. Please register in advance. Walk-ins are welcomed only as space permits. email the information to lawadmissions@utulsa.edu or call (918) 631-2406 by Feb. 21, 2012.

Following the Native American Pre-Law Day, all attendees of the pre-law event are invited to tour the Enduring Spirit exhibit of Native American art and artifacts at Gilcrease Museum from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Shuttles will depart the TU campus at 4 p.m., for those who wish to be transported to and from the museum.

For more information, call (918) 631 - 2406.

Cancer Care Community Education offered in Holdenville through Feb.

Media Release
MCN Division of Health

HOLDENVILLE — Every Tuesday and Thursday, from 6-8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Native Navigators will host cancer continuum sessions at the Holdenville Indian Community Center located at 224 E. Poplar St., in Holdenville.

Survivorship:

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012
Side Effects (NACES)

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2012
Survivors' Support Circles

Comfort/ Preventative Care:

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012
Wills & Advance Directive
For more information, please contact Kathy Cole at (918) 441-6048, Loretta Denny at (918) 441-6049 or Debra Isham, the Project Director at 1-855-623-1189.

“Visions of our Ancestors” calendars now available

Media Release
MCN Public Relations

OKMULGEE — a 2012 tribal calendar featuring images of historic leader Opothleyahola, ceremonial dancers, a traditional Christian church and the College of the Muscogee Nation is now available for free distribution to Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens.

The “Visions of Our Ancestors” 2012 calendar includes National Council Planning Sessions, monthly meeting dates, tribal events (such as the Muscogee Nation Festival and Council Oak Ceremony) and the birthdates of the Chief and Second Chief.

The wall calendar measures 13” x 19” and is suitable for home or office use. A larger 24” x 36” calendar is also available for use by community centers and churches. These calendars are available free of charge at the MCN Public Relations office at the tribal complex (no mail deliveries please). Distribution of the large calendars is limited to one per community or church. For more information, contact MCN Public Relations at (918) 732-7617.



College of the Muscogee Nation calls for public commentary for accreditation

Media Release
College of the Muscogee Nation

OKMULGEE — The College of the Muscogee Nation is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency.

The CMN will host a visit May 21-23, 2012, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

The team will review the institution's ongoing ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the col-

lege via mail to: Public Comment on College of the Muscogee Nation, The Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604-1411. The public may also submit comments on the Commission's Web Site at www.ncahlc.org. Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs and must be in writing. All comments must be received by April 21, 2012.



ANITA HARDING BAIL BONDS

“If you want to go home, pick up the phone”



918-756-7690

24 hours • 7 Days a Week
Fast • Friendly • Confidential
We Can Help You!



106 S. Okmulgee • On the Corner of 6th & Okmulgee

Summer Youth 2012

Accepting Applications: December 19 through March 2.
Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Youth Employment Program.

**To apply call 918 732.7775 or 7776
Or 1800 482-1979 ext. 7775 or 7776**

Deadline to get all the paperwork in to the office is March 16, 2012
No fax applications will be accepted. Must be a member of a
Federally recognized tribe and between the ages of 16 and 21.



**“What lies behind us and
what lies before us, are
small matters compared
to what lies within us.”**